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UNCLAS ROME 003774

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [GLOBAL](#) [DEFENSE](#)

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON GLOBAL DEFENSE POSTURE REVIEW:  
COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR A/S BLOOMFIELD AND DELEGATION

REF: SECSTATE 207467

1. Embassy Rome welcomes and grants country clearance for Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bloomfield, and delegation to visit Rome from October 5-6, 2004. To secure hotel accommodations, please provide fiscal data for charge purposes or credit card information for each individual immediately. Hotel rooms cannot be held without this information.
2. Embassy Control Officer is Political-Military Counselor Jonathan Cohen, office phone: 39-06-4674-2840, office fax: 39-06-4674-2623, home phone: 39-06-4674-2039, cell phone: 39-335-848-4726. The Embassy switchboard number is 39-06-4674-1.
3. Please notify control officer if your travel plans change. Travelers are responsible for paying their hotel bill, including room and incidental expenses, upon checking out.
4. Delegation will be met at the airport by control officer.
5. FISCAL DATA: IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICY, POST WILL DIRECT CHARGE EACH AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR VISITING DELEGATION FOR THE ACTUAL COSTS ATTRIBUTED TO ITS VISIT. THESE COSTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, AMERICAN AND LOCALLY ENGAGED STAFF OVERTIME; FIELD TRAVEL BY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES; TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR OFFICIAL VEHICLES; RENTAL OF VEHICLES, CELLULAR PHONES, AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT; CHARGES FOR CONTROL ROOMS AND OFFICE SPACE; AND THE COST FOR REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS. ALL/ALL VISITORS USING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES MUST PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH AUTHORIZATION AND FISCAL DATA (E.G., TRAVEL ORDERS) AGAINST WHICH THE COSTS FOR REQUESTED ITEMS CAN BE CHARGED. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE CABLED OR FAXED TO THE EMBASSY IN ADVANCE OF YOUR ARRIVAL. PLEASE NOTE THAT WITHOUT A FUND CITE AND AUTHORIZATION, POST WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VEHICLES, DRIVERS, OR OTHER SERVICES.
6. Money Exchange: The unit of currency throughout Italy is the Euro. Dollars or travelers checks can be legally exchanged for Euros at local exchange offices, hotels and the airport. A bank, which is located in the Embassy, can cash checks for dollars or Euros. Most major credit cards are accepted throughout Italy. ATM machines, including one in the Embassy, will accept many U.S. Bank cards.
7. Visa Requirements: Italian visas are not required for TDY'ers holding diplomatic, official or tourist passports.
8. If Holy See (Vatican) related appointments are anticipated, please contact the Embassy Vatican directly via cable or by calling the Executive Office at (39)06-4674-3428.
9. For further information regarding travel in Italy, consult:  
-- the Department of State's Consular Information Sheet <http://www.travel.state.gov/italy.html>  
-- Embassy Rome's Internet site on travel in Italy <http://www.usembassy.it/usa/>
10. Threat/Security Assessment:  
  
Due to many factors, among them American military participation with NATO in the Balkans, the presence of U.S. troops in Italy, the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11th and U.S. military actions in Afghanistan, American diplomatic facilities in Italy operate under a state of heightened security.

During the G-8 summit in Genoa in July 2001, certain factions of the anti-globalization groups orchestrated violent demonstrations at the summit. There is a concern that these same groups may use demonstrations against U.S. military actions in Afghanistan as a reason to target U.S. Government facilities and businesses in Italy. The bombings in Rome and Turin last year, and the more recent discovery of an improvised explosive device near Consulate General Florence, may indicate there is strong opposition to political and economic globalization policy.

The violent Red Brigade units that flourished in Italy

during the late seventies had been thought to be mostly finished as a group with neither the ability or the

followers necessary to conduct a major terrorist act. However, on May 20, 1999, a group identifying itself as the Red Brigade claimed responsibility for the professionally executed assassination of a key advisor to the Italian Minister of Labor. The Italian police believe that the Nuclei Territoriali Antimperialisti (NTA) carried out the assassination. A group known as the Autonomists have, in the past, claimed responsibility for firebombs or Molotov cocktails thrown at buildings or offices in the middle of the night, apparently in an effort to avoid human injury. Members are mostly radical students and disruptive youths.

The security environment is closely monitored and updated assessments are issued as warranted. Travelers should maintain a low profile; stay alert for unusual activity, for example surveillance; and avoid repetitious patterns and habits, i.e., vary routes and times of departures and arrivals. Visitors to U.S. diplomatic and military facilities should be aware that increased security measures are in effect at these locations. While there is presently no information available that indicates targeting of a specific individual, all visitors and resident USG personnel are encouraged to maintain a heightened state of security awareness. Unusual or suspicious incidents should be reported immediately to the RSO.

Street crime occurs frequently in the large cities and at tourist locations. Visitors are warned to safeguard their valuables at all times, especially while walking along streets and when using public transportation. Extra care should be taken while in crowded tourist areas. Pickpocketing and purse snatching occur regularly. Pickpockets usually work in teams and target tourists. They are efficient and thorough. Traveling on the Autostrada throughout Italy can be hazardous. Rest stops are often hangouts for thieves.

Privately owned laptops and personal computers are prohibited in all classified facilities. Cellular telephones and palm pilots are not permitted in CAA areas. Travelers with USG owned unclassified laptop or notebook computers, peripherals, diskettes and tapes must obtain RSO/IMO authorization for access. USG owned classified computers must arrive at post via classified diplomatic pouch. Questions concerning other types of electronic devices and magnetic media should be directed to the IMO or RSO.

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